

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
April 21, 2014
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman G. Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media on April 11, 2014.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, V.C. Pro-Tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Randy Crenshaw

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of April 21, 2014 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith further introduced Councilman Trey Whitehurst for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to introduce the speakers who have signed up.

1. Tom Hendricks – Mr. Hendricks made statements regarding several issues. First, he informed Council and Staff that Public Works had recently responded to a road issue and he appreciated their good work. In another issue, Mr. Hendricks discussed expenses of a new jail; Mr. Hendricks stated he was opposed to a new facility of this nature as it would cost approximately \$20-30M, and further the consultants and cost overruns would be a factor. In conclusion, Mr. Hendricks stated the council needs to look at the Medal of Honor recipients that are in Pickens County and name roads, buildings, and or bridges to honor them appropriately. Mr. Hendricks stated while some have items named on their behalf, it does not specify their status of receiving the Medal of Honor.
2. Junius Smith-Mr. Smith stated the Freedom against Religion Foundation (FRF) tried to interfere with the Clemson football program in regards to religious prayer. Mr. Smith stated it was unconstitutional for this group (FRF) to try to enforce laws about religion that the Supreme Court cannot rule. In another issue, Mr. Smith stated that the school board of Pickens County continues to break laws by spending public funding that they are not authorized to spend. Further, Mr. Smith informed Council that the Sheriff is being asked to investigate this issue of the school board and bring criminal charges against at least (8) people. Finally, Mr. Smith stated he was of the opinion that buildings, roads, and bridges should be named for the “people” who pay for public property.
3. Travis Garner- Mr. Garner introduced himself, and informed Council he was speaking on behalf of a large group of citizens who would like to contribute to having better education, information, and overall more communication about the animal shelter, adoption choices, and other animal

programs in Pickens County. Mr. Garner stated he was not being critical of the work already being done, but when compared with other counties, Pickens County's information is not as helpful. Council was given a large packet of information that contained examples of websites, volunteer ideas, and various improvements.

4. Steve Haney- Mr. Haney concurred with comments made by Junius Smith that public buildings should be named for the taxpayers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –March 17, 2014:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of March 17, 2014 as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Guarino gave the following report.

- 1) Introduction of new department heads. Mr. Guarino introduced Billy Gibson, Fire Chief for Pickens and Shady Grove Rural. Mr. Gibson came to Pickens County from Anderson County where he was a district chief over 30 fire stations.

Mr. Guarino further introduced David Bradford, Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor; Mr. Bradford came to Pickens County from Flint Equipment, and has over 20 years of experience in the automotive industry.

>Council welcomed the department heads and thanked Mr. Guarino for the introductions.

- 2) Council received a printout of the Recreation Report.
- 3) Magistrate Building- Contract has been signed, and work is beginning. The project should be nearing completion by mid to late August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman Tom Ponder gave the following Public Service Report: The Public Service Commission met in the Main Conference room on April 4, 2014 with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding. Chairman Smith and Councilman Randy Crenshaw were also in attendance.

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
 Gerald Wilson, Public Works Director
 Sheila Tinsley, Administrative Assistant

Log	Description	Referred	Report Out	Action
23	Request from the City of Liberty for assistance with demolition.	03/17/2014		> Committee moved to accept method that has been done in the past of handling demolition cases, and use as method of procedure. >Council approved

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Chairman Smith reported the following:

Chairman Smith noted he would sign the Proclamation for Peace Officers Memorial Day, which is recognized by the Governor's Office on May 15th.

Chairman Smith read a thank you note from Meals on Wheels stating their appreciation for the help with the fundraisers during the month of March.

Chairman Smith provided information that he authorized Ralph Guarino to sign a letter for the Disabilities and Special Needs Board to apply for the 5310 grant for a minibus.

- Vice Chairman Tom Ponder reported the following:

Mr. Ponder stated the Dacusville Community Center had received signage for the property, and was now officially titled. Mr. Ponder stated this building has been an excellent resource for the Dacusville citizens; the Center has provided places for fundraisers, concerts, and recreation. Mr. Ponder stated the Center would have its second concert on May 9th, and this would be a Bluegrass event. Mr. Ponder concluded by thanking Council for their vision and support with the Dacusville Community Center.

Mr. Ponder also discussed the meeting he recently attended of the Pickens County Water Authority. Mr. Ponder expressed concern that Greenville authorities were involved in the decisions and planning of Pickens County projects. Mr. Ponder stated similar concerns about transportation groups such as GPATS; these organizations from Greenville do not need to decide the future of Pickens County.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business. Hearing none, the motion period was closed.

FIRST READING OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder that this constitutes a first reading of the 2014/2015 budget ordinance.

FIRST READING TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw that this constitutes a first reading of the 2013/2014 budget amendment.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 384, 410, 424, 433, 437, 438, 442, 451, 461 AND 472 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of an ordinance to amend the Oconee Pickens park agreement.
>Ms. Willis noted she would like the physical address prior to a third reading.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.
 - Accommodation Tax Recommendation, Administration and Finance Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.

- Legal updates
- Personnel updates
- Contractual issues
- Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and advised the following.

- 1) Pendleton District Commission-Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to nominate Tourism Director, Helen Hockwalt to the Pickens County Delegation for the Pickens County seat on the Pendleton District Commission.
- 2) Fire Department Bids- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve bid # 2014-16 in the amount of \$680,958; bid # 2014-20 in the amount of \$375,900; and bid # 2014-21 in the amount of \$375,900.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman